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No. 99

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENT).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.

July 25, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES W. DENT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 a.m.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "The Book of Proverbs tells us, Lord: 'The fruit of virtue is a tree of life, but violence takes lives away.'"

Lord, our God, let virtue triumph over violence.

If virtue were to find strength even in the war-torn parts of the world, violence would be rejected as the way to peace. Neither trees nor life survive on a battlefield.

So quickly, violent words can be tossed around a household, casting a cloud over a family, and expressions of violence can even find their way into the language of lawmakers and the courts of a land.

Drown all forms of violent behavior with virtue, Lord. The hand may reach for a weapon, a mind can plot vengeance, but violence springs from the heart. That is why the hearts of Americans, Lord, need so much virtue that there is no room for violence, on our streets, in our speech or our daily reactions to today, tomorrow, forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUPAK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### LAW OFFICERS—VICTIMS OF ILLEGAL ENTRY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, more news from the second front. The battle for the border is continuing. When our government does not monitor illegal entry into our homeland, all types of bandits come through.

One was Ramon Ramos. He and his accomplice, Francisco Salcedo, were stopped by Texas State Trooper Steven Stone for speeding in Tyler, Texas, 400 miles from the border. They were wearing body armor and armed with knives, handguns and assault rifles, and they were looking for trouble.

Ramos showed Trooper Stone a forged driver's license, and then, at point blank range, started shooting. Trooper Stone was shot six times and left for dead. Ramos and Salcedo then led other law enforcement officers on a high speed chase.

Ramos was recently convicted and sentenced to 14 life sentences. Why 14? Well, he tried to kill 13 other people, including peace officers in his blazing gun battle with the law.

Salcedo will get his day in court later this week.

Trooper Steven Stone miraculously survived.

Mr. Speaker, these crimes against peace officers could have been avoided had the Federal Government done its sworn duty to protect the borders from illegal entry.

And that's just the way it is.

### VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, at this historic moment, the United States is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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failing in its moral obligation to bring a cessation to the violence in the Middle East. This policy of inaction will have great consequences for the region, the world, and for the safety of our Nation and our allies.

The United States stands alone in our ability to bring an end to the violence and relieve the humanitarian catastrophe which has engulfed the people of Lebanon, Palestine and Israel.

In the short-term, we must call for an end to the violence. Then, without pre-conditions, we must bring all parties in the region to a long term settlement which will be enforced by peacekeepers.

This is the purpose of House Concurrent Resolution 450. We should demonstrate concern about the plight of the Israelis, but we must not be indifferent to the plight of the Arabs, Muslims and Christians and all others who are suffering the destruction of their homes, their families, their hopes and their dreams.

As the violence continues with no end in sight and with civilian casualties on the rise, this is the moment to call for the end of fear and the beginning of hope. House Concurrent Resolution 450 does just that.

#### SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

(Mr. McHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah, Iran and Syria's armed militia of Islamic extremists attacked Israel, giving Israel every right to unleash fury on these terrorists.

Israel is not only fighting to protect themselves, but every other reasonable, freedom-loving person sharing this planet.

A Hezbollah spokesman said they are fully ready to send trained and armed volunteers to every corner of the earth to jeopardize Israeli and American interests.

The attacks of September 11, the bombings of London and Madrid, the terrorist roundup in Toronto and the present day insurgency in Iraq all forecast an unsettling but winnable trend, Mr. Speaker.

We are in a war against Islamic extremists, and the battle lines do not start and stop in the Middle East. They extend to the far reaches of the globe, and will do so until democracy replaces theocracy, freedom replaces tyranny, and equality replaces injustice.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation stands beside Israel as they protect their homeland and fight our common enemy, Islamic extremists.

#### TERRORISM

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the Nation this fact:

Right now, the world is less safe than it was a year ago, or even before the terrible events of September 11.

We should be confronting violent extremism and people who want to destroy our life and our Nation. We should be chasing them around the world and giving them no rest or refuge.

Yet, after nearly 5 years of the war on terror, where are we?

The Taliban is growing stronger in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda is firmly entrenched in Iraq, where it never had been before. Hamas and Hezbollah are acting with impunity.

This country needs a new strategy in the struggle with extremists, not one that is hamstrung by the mess in Iraq, sidetracked by political finger-pointing, or beholden to special oil interests.

This country needs new leadership that will safeguard our children's future rather than send them to war without equipment that they need.

This country needs a new direction, a direction that will make tomorrow safer than today. The American people deserve nothing less.

#### HONORING FLOYD LANDIS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. domination of the Tour-de-France continues. For 7 consecutive years, Lance Armstrong dominated the event, but his departure last year left the cycling world wondering who would step up to claim his crown.

On Sunday we found out. His name is Floyd Landis. Floyd hails from Farmersville, Pennsylvania, just outside of Ephrata, in the heart of Lancaster County.

His parents were attending a service at Martindale Mennonite Church during their son's triumphant ride through the streets of Paris. His dad said, "I was praying for him."

Mr. Speaker, Floyd's performance was an inspiration. Though in need of a hip replacement, his determination and willpower was unwavering.

One writer who has been covering the event for 18 years called it, "the best performance in the modern history of the tour."

On behalf of the entire 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, as well as Lancaster, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Floyd and his family.

He has represented his hometown and his country well, and I applaud his tremendous performance in cycling's most prestigious event.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS PREPARE TO LEAVE TOWN WITHOUT ADDRESSING RECORD GAS PRICES

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, gas prices are at a record high, at over \$3 per gallon. Yet House Republicans plan to leave Washington at the end of this week for a 5-week recess without providing any relief at the gas pump.

My legislation, the PUMP Act, which would lower the cost of a barrel of oil by \$20, has been stalled in committee.

Our constituents have been gouged at the pump for 4 months in a row now, and the only response we have heard from the other side of the aisle is the same old tired policies that will do nothing to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and will do nothing to provide real relief to the American consumer.

There is no excuse for Republican inaction. It is time that they break their cozy ties with oil companies so we can finally help the American consumer.

House Democrats want to repeal more than \$20 billion in tax breaks and subsidies that Congressional Republicans and the Bush White House continue to protect. With Big Oil's record profits of \$16 billion during the first quarter of this year, oil companies don't need more tax breaks from Washington. Democrats would invest this money, more than \$20 billion, into energy resources of tomorrow so that we can begin to wean ourselves off foreign oil.

It is time to go in a new direction, America.

#### PLEASANT VALLEY SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church in Silver Creek, Georgia, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

For a century and a half, Pleasant Valley South has been fulfilling the spiritual and communal needs of its congregants, and I know it will continue this service for many years to come.

Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church was founded in 1856. At the time, it was housed in a log cabin that also served as the community school. In 1863, James McBride was named as the church's first pastor, and he preached to a congregation of 22 people.

Well, Pastor McBride would hardly recognize Pleasant Valley South today. In 2002, a 900-seat worship center was built to serve the church's 1,700 members. Pastor Philip May presides over services that regularly attract more than 700 congregants on Sunday morning.

Mr. Speaker, churches are one of the strongest foundations in our communities, and for 150 years, Pleasant Valley South Baptist has brought inspiration to Silver Creek and her residents.

I ask that you join me in congratulating the church on its historic 150th anniversary.